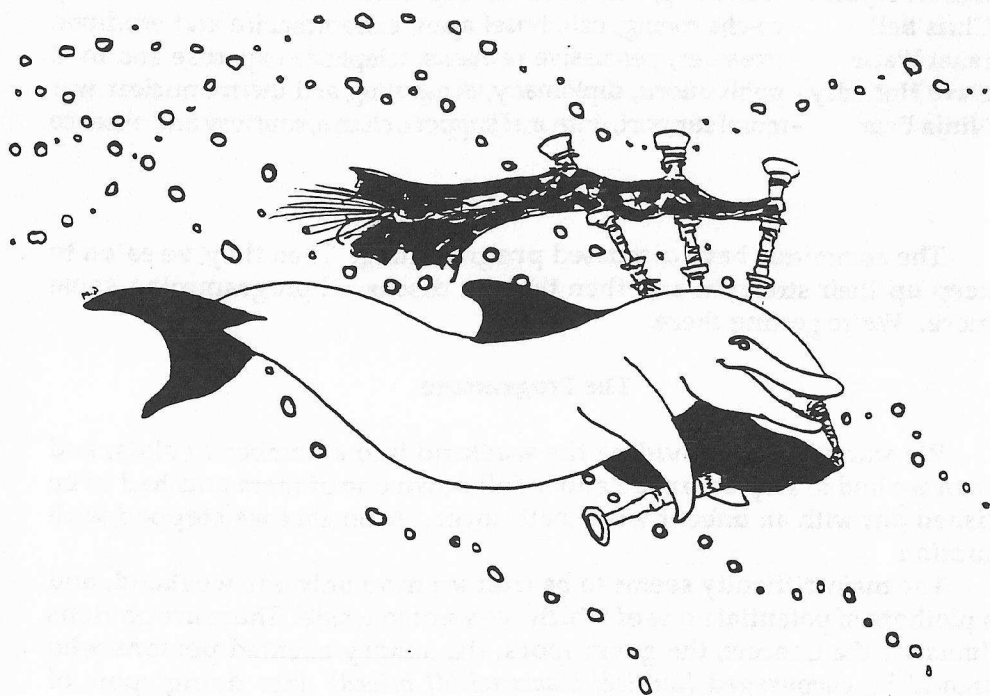


PENTATONIC

Progress Report 2



The Fifth Annual British Filk Convention

5th - 7th February 1993

PENTATONIC

The Rozel Hotel, Weston-super-Mare

Contact Address : Pentatonic, 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, BRISTOL BS6 6SZ

Email : dholladay@cix.compulink.co.uk

The Committee

Zander Nyrond - chairbeing, interstellar entrepreneur, wordsmith and catflap
Chris Bell - co-chairbeing, fish, hotel agent extraordinaire and erudition
Janet Waite - treasurer, percussive remarks, telephone expertise and food
Dave Holladay - publications, diplomacy, computing and thermonuclear war
Ninja Bear - moral support, immoral support, charm, courtesy and absence

Action So far

The committee have discussed programming. Then they've eaten to keep up their strength, and then they've discussed programming some more. We're getting there.

The Programme

We started out by dividing the weekend into a number of slots, and then we had to stop because Zander fell down one of them and had to be fished out with an unbent wire coathanger. After that we stepped with caution.

The main difficulty seems to be that we have only one weekend, and a plethora of potential none of which we want to waste. There are obvious "musts": the Concert, the guest spots, the sundry talented persons who should be encouraged [*bullied/ blackmailed/ bribed*] into doing spots of their own as well as appearing in the Concert; we want to follow the success of the Music Hall at Fourplay with something so similar as to amount to plagiarism; we have several ideas for panels, and when we're going to fit them in around the other possibilities (did someone say a *drum* workshop? What, *making* them? Is this safe?) is beginning to look like a Problem.

This doesn't mean that we don't want to hear from any and all of you who might have ideas. If you've got a panel you want to see happening, or something which you want to develop, or you wish to volunteer to

moderate a panel or to run a workshop on a subject which is close to your heart and which you feel doesn't get enough attention, you know the address. We're waiting with open ears, arms and minds for your suggestions.

The Hotel

The staff at the Rozel Hotel in Weston-super-Mare continue to be very friendly, recognising stray committee members by name when they wander in seeking cold drinks on a hot day.

The room-rate is now fixed: £24 per person per night in the "family" rooms, sharing three to the room; £25 pppn for twin and double rooms; £26 pppn for single rooms; £10 per night for children aged between 9 and 14 years sharing a room with an adult; no charge for children under 9 sharing a room with parent or guardian.

In addition, those who wish to extend their stay for Sunday night will be charged only £15 for bed and breakfast on that night, provided that they were at the hotel for the previous two.

The contract signed by the manager includes the words "Room charges will include cooked breakfast, *with extra mushrooms.* "

It also says "Bar prices will be ordinary public bar prices as at the time of the convention. Soft drinks, especially lemonade, coke and orange juice (not squash) will not cost more per pint than beer does."

Did we mention that we're pretty pleased with the hotel?

Weston Super Mare in Brief - by our chairbeing

According to the most reliable sources, Edwin McTeal of Bridlington registered the horse in question in 1924 as a yearling, by Weston Thunderer III out of Sweet Malvina. Evidence of the animal's super-equine abilities was not long in appearing, when as a filly of only eighteen months she acted single-hoofedly to foil a daring bank-robbery...

Sorry about that. The Nyronid will let his fancy run away with him.

"Super Mare" in this context actually means "above the sea", and it was in fact some two hundred feet above the sea that the floating island of Weston was discovered in the autumn of 1942. The enterprising rating who contrived to fire a grapnel into and thus gain access to the airborne land mass was instructed by his superior officers to claim it for his native country. Since the rating in question was a zealous member of Plaid Cymru, certain complications ensued which could not satisfactorily be

resolved until some years after the war, when the island was temporarily winched down to sea-level to allow of King George VI performing the formal taking of seisin...

We apologise again for our chairbeing's unfortunate essays at humour.

Weston-super-Mare is, of course, a prominent resort on the west coast of England, not far from the City and County of Bristol, and known for the bracing quality of its air and the medicinal properties of its famous ketchup springs...

This guide to Weston-super-Mare will be resumed as soon as possible.

Weston-super-Mare - a brief guide vetted for factual accuracy

The biggest town on the West Country's north coast, Weston has a record for growth that few resorts can match. Its population has increased over the last two centuries from under 100 to over 50,000. The town boasts wide sea-front roads, public gardens, and many other amenities and facilities for the holidaymaker, none of which will be much use in February, but what the Frod, Certain People wanted facts.

Brean Down, to the south, features a Roman temple, and the ruined Norman church of St. Nicholas at Uphill is reportedly "worth the climb". Finds from the Iron Age fort on Worlebury Hill, to the north, may be viewed in the museum. The church of All Saints, just east of Grove Park, was built in 1898 - 1902 by G. F. Bodley, with later additions by ...

That will be quite enough facts, thank you.

We wish to make it clear at this point that we in the committee will be exerting the utmost effort to make sure that the charms of Weston-super-Mare go completely unnoticed by everyone at Pentatonic, apart from during brief sorties for rolls of film, cassettes and other necessities. Consequently all information about the town is completely irrelevant (we hope) and is offered only as evidence of our overwhelming desire to cater for any and all odd urges that may strike our - well, what do we call you? Chris doesn't like "attendees" and I don't blame her. Delegates? Conventioneers? Victims? Anyway, the point is that it's a popular resort, with lots of good hotels, of which we happen to have picked a particularly outstanding one.

What do you mean "happen"? I found that hotel by the sweat of my brow, Nyronnd! I think perhaps we'd better move on.

Taping Policy

The following extract from Act V of what appears to be an early draft of the Scottish play bears in many ways upon our particular field. Father Culpin appears briefly in the chronicle from which Shakespeare drew his material, but becomes merely "a Doctor of Physic" in the final draft of the play.

(Scene 1. - A hall in the castle. Enter FATHER CULPIN and a SERVANT.)

SERVANT: Marry, good sir, 'tis here she walks of nights,
Wakeful and weary-worn with weight of woe.
Let's hold ourselves apart and hear her words,
That you may know the dismal state of her.

(Enter LADY MACBELL, with a taper.)

LADY MACBELL: Out, damned tape! Out, I say! Testing, testing - one - two
-why then 'tis time to do't. Hell, it's wonky.
Fie, my lord, fie! A Sony, and a dud?

SERVANT: Go speak with her, I pray you, worthy sir.

FATHER CULPIN: I will, good madam. Mark me here a while.

LADY MACBELL: Yet who would have thought the old tape to have had so
much gunge on it?

FATHER CULPIN: My lady, I would fain have words with thee,
Concerning that machine there in thy hand.
For well thou know'st convention policy
Constrains us, lest all taping should be banned.
First, let thy tapes be for thy use alone:
Commercial enterprise we do decry.

LADY MACBELL: Nor those who copies make can we condone,
Sith the performer nothing gains thereby.
What, will these heads ne'er be clean? No more o' that,
my lord, no more o' that! You mar all with this scratching.

FATHER CULPIN: Second, suppose we that some bard should plead:
"Tape not this song, I pray you, gentles all,"
'Tis common courtesy his will to heed.

LADY MACBELL: Dissenters are not welcome in our hall.
Here's a stain of the gunge still. All the isopropyl alcohol
in Tandy will not clean up this little head. Oh, oh, oh!

FATHER CULPIN: Thirdly, let all remember for what cause
Performers come to sing - to please the crowd.
So, by obeying these few pleasant laws
Taping at filk cons still shall be allowed.

LADY MACBELL: To bed, to bed! There's knocking on the tape. What's
done cannot be redone. To bed, to bed, to bed!

(Exit LADY MACBELL.)

FATHER CULPIN: Will she now go to bed?

SERVANT : *(darkly)* I doubt it.

Flying Filt Fund

Chris is still collecting squares for the Quilk; at the time of going to press she has 54 completed squares, one which she is going to finish embroidering Real Soon Now, and need of more squares, more squares. Ideally up to a total of 135 of them. So don't get weaving, because it would take too long, but do please get sewing or drawing or painting or even just signing, on cotton squares five inches across plus a three-quarter inch hem all round, the end result to be washable, and send or bring the square to Chris at the convention address.

Tickets for the raffle of the Filt cost £1 each. You may buy up to five tickets per head. If you want to get tickets now, send money or cheques (made payable to Chris Bell, for the Quilk raffle, not to Pentatonic) to the convention address. Send your square(s) at the same time, perhaps?

Weapons Policy

Since there is no Masquerade, no weapon or anything that could be mistaken for a weapon by the hotel or the police is allowed in the convention. Putting it another way, anything that looks to us dangerous had better be just a musical instrument, okay?

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Marion and Richard van der Voort for help, support and encouragement.

As before, the committee would like to thank M. Dennis for providing cover art.

And that seems to be about it, and we've managed not to mention the Olympics once ... oh DAMN!

Membership List

Margaret Austin	Fox	Miki
Chris Bell	Gwen Funnell	Omega
Kenneth Bell	Bruce W. Grant	Zander Nyronnd
Ben Brown	Hitch	Joan Paterson
Cub	Dave Holladay	Harry Payne
Rafe Culpin	Valerie Housden	Roger Robinson
Rachel Dalglish	Rhodri James	Tony Rogers
Julia Daly	Diana Wynne Jones	Alison Scott
Steve Davies	Gareth Josham	Mike Scott
Lawrence Dean	Talis Kimberley	Pat Silver
Martin Easterbrook	Kathy Mar	Kathy Sterry
Sue Edwards	Marion	Tibs
John English	Robert Maughan	Peter Wareham
Colin Fine	Melusine	Janet Waite

This list is correct as of 1/8/1992. Chris doesn't believe that anyone has yet got lost from it. If you aren't happy with it let her know at the contact address.

Membership Rates

Membership of Pentatonic costs £15 for adults, £1 for children under the age of nine, dogs, cats, hard toys, soft toys, or begonæ.

These prices will be held until immediately after Novacon 22. From November 9th 1992 adult membership of Pentatonic will cost £18 - and it will rise again after that, too. As we have said before, you have been warned!

Cheques should be made out to "Pentatonic", and membership applications and monies should be sent to Chris Bell, "Pentatonic", 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, BRISTOL BS6 6SZ. If you want a receipt, please enclose an SSAE.

Pentatonic, 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, BRISTOL BS6 6SZ.

Pentatonic, 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, BRISTOL BS6 6SZ.

Please enrol me as a member of Pentatonic. I enclose £_____ for my membership. (Cheques payable to "Pentatonic", please.)

Name:

Badge Name:

Address:

Telephone:

*Please note that unless you specifically request otherwise,
these details will be held on computer.*